

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**

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**DATE:** November 1, 2001

**TO:** Cindy Beurtheret  
Little Hoover Commission  
925 L Street, Suite 805  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**FROM:** Daniel R. Smiley  
Chief Deputy Director

**SUBJECT:** Bullets for Little Hoover Commission Testimony on November 15, 2001

The following are key points that the EMS Authority will present in the Department's testimony to the Little Hoover Commission:

- EMS must participate in and ensure accurate information to the public;
- Ambulances staffed with trained and equipped EMT-Paramedics form the backbone of our EMS response within the first 2 hours of a mass casualty incident from any source;
- EMSA has also worked to improve hospital preparedness through the incident command system structure, communication, and procedures;
- California relies upon a strong Medical Mutual Aid System to respond to disaster events that overwhelm a given jurisdiction;
- Operationally, the EMS Authority has emphasized the development of a State operational response capability, which includes Disaster Medical Assistance Teams and a Management Support Unit;
- EMS must fully interface with the local public health system; and
- Finally, education and practice ensures the ability of our statewide system to respond.

If you have any questions, please contact Sheila Martin or Shirley Tsagris of my staff at (916) 322-4336.